

school for Brandeis Hillel schools in San Francisco and San Rafael.

I have known Don since I served on the Simi Valley City Council and he covered the meetings as a journalist. Fortunately, he found a more respectable line of work when he joined the Las Virgenes School District as its public information officer in 1979.

From there, Don became a middle school teacher, school principal, assistant superintendent of business services, deputy superintendent, and finally superintendent on July 2, 2007.

He is credited with bringing the first Spanish immersion program to the district, instituting a community service requirement for graduation, increasing technology in the classroom, adding high school performance arts centers, and renovating and expanding Lindero Canyon Middle School, where he began his teaching career.

Although Don left the classroom early in his career, he never left the kids. For 35 years, he has taken a group of eighth graders to Washington, D.C., over spring break. Don believes very deeply that students should know firsthand how their government works.

That belief stems from an earlier career before the call to teaching caught up with him. Don traveled the world as an administrative coordinator for the Los Angeles World Affairs Council and had a front-row seat to the decision-making processes of Secretaries of State, presidents, princes and kings.

But it was education that became his life. Don credits Bernard Cohen, his seventh- and eighth-grade teacher at Walter Reed Junior High in North Hollywood, for sparking his interest in teaching.

"Most kids get one teacher who ignited that spark and made learning exciting," Don told a local paper when he was named superintendent. "There wasn't one person who didn't respect him and look up to him. I thought that was cool."

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure many a Las Virgenes student has looked up to Dr. Donald Zimring and thought he was cool, too. I am equally sure my colleagues join me in thanking Don for his 37 years of professional service to Las Virgenes Unified School District and in wishing him the best in his new role at Brandeis Hillel.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF BURLINGAME'S ADOPTION OF B COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 327TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1ST BRIGADE, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the city of Burlingame for its adoption in 2007 of B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

In 1967 a soldier in Vietnam named Sgt. Joe Artavia wrote a letter to his sister, Linda Patterson, asking her to convince the city of San Mateo to adopt his company. He thought an adoption would lift troop morale "as high as the sky." Patterson rallied the community to support her brother and his comrades. Within three months the San Mateo City Council passed a resolution to adopt the company.

Tragically, Artavia was killed three weeks later rescuing a fellow soldier, and the people of San Mateo joined together in mourning. Artavia's death solidified San Mateo's commitment to its adopted company and, in fact, in 1972 San Mateo was the only city in the United States to hold an official homecoming parade honoring Vietnam veterans.

Working with Patterson, the city of Burlingame adopted its own company of the 101st Airborne Division in 2003. Since that time the city has continuously supported B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, visiting them in peacetime, establishing pen-pals and sending care packages.

In a few months Burlingame's adopted company will be re-deployed for another tour in Afghanistan. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the original welcoming-home parade, a new parade and festival will be held to honor past and present soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in honoring the city of Burlingame for supporting B Company, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and its brave men and women who fill its ranks, especially those who gave their lives for our freedom.

### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,777,954,587,181.97. We've added \$5,151,077,538,268.89 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1788, the Constitution of the United States went into effect when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it. The Constitution, which strove to form a more perfect Union and promote the general Welfare, is being crushed by the weight of our national debt.

### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION (NATCA)

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA).

Since its establishment in 1987, NATCA has been a fierce advocate for its members and has been a strong proponent for aviation jobs, continuously working for improved working conditions and opportunities in the field for over 20,000 controllers, engineers and other safety professionals.

It is no easy task to manage the most complex airspace system in the world, but with diligent professionalism and outstanding quality, NATCA has been working for a quarter of a century to keep us all protected. It is because of their unwavering commitment to aviation safety that over 700 million passengers a year arrive safely at their destinations.

I congratulate all the professionals at NATCA for their 25 years of hard work. We look forward to many more years of safety in the skies.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AND THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. As Girl Scouts across the country and those in Sacramento gather to celebrate this remarkable milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Girl Scouts' important role nationally and in the Sacramento community.

The Girl Scouts began under the guidance of Juliette Gordon Low who founded the organization with a handful of girls seeking new experiences and opportunities in their communities. Over the last century they have grown to a membership of over 3.2 million girls and adults, including nearly 29,000 girls and 11,000 adult volunteers in Sacramento and Central California.

Over the last one hundred years, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has provided many services to their scouts' communities and to this country. During World War I, the Girl Scouts sold war bonds to help fund the war effort; the Great Depression saw them running food drives and volunteering in hospitals; they grew Victory Gardens during World War II; they supported the civil rights movement in the 1960s; and after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, they reached out to a shaken America with special services to the community and for first responders.

With the help of parent volunteers and other adults giving their time and effort to the organization, the Girl Scouts have been able to grow and continue their legacy as a resource for our daughters, nieces, and granddaughters. They cultivate service, character, appreciation for diversity, and confidence in young girls, fostering new generations of female leaders. The Girl Scouts Heart of Central California provides programs that include activities encouraging girls to explore careers in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math; an outreach program for girls in underserved rural and urban areas; and a Latino initiative reaching out to encourage first-generation Spanish-speaking women to serve as Girl Scout leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 100th anniversary. I am confident